



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Health Services

At its meeting held July 15, 2003, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

Supervisor Antonovich's recommendation to instruct the Director of Health Services to work in collaboration with County Counsel to establish a grading posting system for community clinics, nursing homes and other health facilities, similar to that used by the County for grading restaurants, and report back to the Board within 30 days with recommendations;

Also consideration of Supervisor Burke's recommendation that the Board delay any action regarding Supervisor Antonovich's proposal to establish a health facility grading system until the Director of Health Services, in consultation with County Counsel, evaluates the fiscal and legal implications, including such issues as jurisdiction, financing and potential liability to the County, with a report back to the Board within 60 days.

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

"The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services operates an inspection program, in health facilities, by providing routine and complaint inspections of community clinics, nursing homes, and other health facilities. There is not a readily recognizable way for patients and their families to know the conditions in these health facilities. Although these inspections are conducted under State and Federal laws and regulations, it is imperative to explore if local grading requirements, similar to that used by the County for grading restaurants, can be implemented.

"A grading system for health facilities will ensure that families and consumers of these facilities can be better informed on the conditions and standard of care provided and improve health facilities."

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Therefore, Supervisor Antonovich made a motion that the Board instruct the Director of Health Services to work in collaboration with County Counsel to establish a grading posting system for community clinics, nursing homes and other health facilities, similar to that used by the County for grading restaurants, and report back to the Board within 30 days with recommendations.

Supervisor Burke made the following statement:

“Agenda Item No. 5 on the July 15, 2003 Board meeting instructs the Director of Health Services to establish a grading system for health facilities, similar to that which exists for restaurant inspections. This is a significant undertaking because it includes community clinics, nursing homes, and other health facilities. Given this, the legal and fiscal implications should be thoroughly evaluated before moving forward.

“Health care facilities are far more complex organizations than restaurants, and thus, I have a number of concerns regarding this proposal. Among these are whether it is within the County’s jurisdiction to inspect and grade these facilities, how this would be paid for, and what potential liability may exist for the County by assigning a grade to a health care institution.”

Genevieve Clavreul, James Lott, Executive Vice President of the Hospital Association of Southern California, and Mandy Johnson, representing the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County, addressed the Board.

After discussion, Supervisor Burke made a substitute motion, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, that the Board instruct the Director of Health Services, in consultation with County Counsel, to evaluate the fiscal and legal implications of establishing a grading posting system for community clinics, nursing homes and other health facilities, similar to that used by the County for grading restaurants, including such issues as jurisdiction, financing, and potential liability to the County, and report back to the Board within 60 days. Said substitute motion was unanimously carried.

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Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel